



UPWARD

INITIATIVE

GROWING BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

February 21, 2012

Ms. Lisa P. Jackson
EPA Administrator
Ariel Rios Building
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Jackson,

The UPWARD Initiative Natural Resource subcommittee was formed as part of the action implementation phase resulting from a 2009 regional study for the design and development of a strategic regional plan focused on economic and talent development aligned with the demands of the 21st century economy. The initiative is a call to action for the region comprised of the fifteen counties in the UP and Florence and Marinette Counties in Wisconsin. The Natural Resources subcommittee is focused on continuing to promote the use of the region's natural resources in an environmentally sound, safe, and sustainable manner. We are also focused on proactive strategies that promote value-added economic activity within the region.

Rio Tinto plans on mining ore from the Eagle Mine in 2013. The Marquette County Road Commission Board has determined a public need for a new road, County Road 595, to provide enhanced year-round vehicle access to the north central portion of Marquette County. Ely, Champion, Humbolt, Michigamme, Marquette, Powell, Republic, and Richmond Townships as well as the City of Marquette, all support CR 595 as a feasible route to transport ore from the mine to a crushing facility in western Marquette County.

The Commission's stated purpose is to construct a new primary county road that will improve emergency, commercial, industrial and recreational access to northwest Marquette County and reduce truck travel through Marquette County's population centers.

Not only will the new road directly benefit the timber, mining and gravel industries, it will decrease truck traffic in the City of Marquette, in residential areas, and on the congested U.S. 41 corridor. CR 595 will most appropriately protect not only our region's economic viability but most importantly the quality of life enjoyed by our residents and visitors.

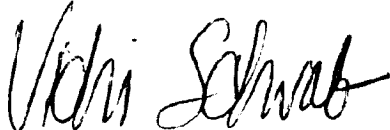
The UPWARD Natural Resources Committee believes that constructing County Road 595 is imperative to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Marquette when considering

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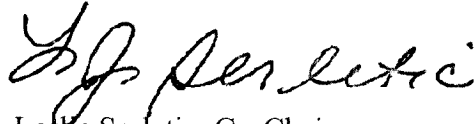
emergency services, emergency access, recreational access and commercial access. We support the permitting of this project, and look forward to final approval by the MDEQ.

The UPWard Initiative is made up of seven committees focused on seven key areas of economic development focus. There are currently over 180 local residents working as volunteers to support the effort. This letter is forwarded by the Natural Resources Committee on behalf of the group as a whole.

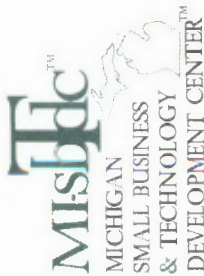
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vicki Schwab". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vicki" written in a larger, more prominent style than the last name "Schwab".

Vicki Schwab, Co-Chair
UPWard Natural Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leslie Serletic". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leslie" written in a larger, more prominent style than the last name "Serletic".

Leslie Serletic, Co-Chair
UPWard Natural Resources



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Escanaba, MI 49829

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